

Camping at Kelly Lake

Lake is mostly surrounded by reeds. Best access to water is from the north shore.

Flat ground is limited to 2-3 small groups.

There is an outhouse on the Coit Road, couple hundred feet west from the lake.

The best camp sites are:

- an open meadow on the north shore.
- a small grassy area near the south side of the dam
- a grassy meadow near the beginning of Kelly Cabin Creek Trail. From the dam, walk to the outhouse and then 0.1 miles on Coit Road, following the creek downstream.

Water sources

- Elderberry Spring (0.1 miles off the route) - year round at all but driest years
- Kelly Lake
- Wasno pond (0.3 miles off the route)
- Tule Pond

When Hunting Hollow has high water

On return trip, if Hunting Hollow Creek is impassable after heavy rain, you can scramble along the hillside from the concrete bridge on Gilroy Hot Springs road to Steer Ridge and Jim Donnelly trails.

Trip highlights

- Kelly Lake - swimming, fishing
- Steep climbs and descents
- Vast panoramic views
- Spectacular spring wildflowers
- Wildlife watching - may encounter coyotes, bobcats, wild pigs and hawks. Coots, ducks and red-winged blackbirds are frequently seen by the lake.

- **The Park is open year round, 7 days a week/24 hours. Hunting Hollow entrance is not staffed, self-registration only.**
- **In summer, temperatures above 90 degrees between 11 a.m. and 7:30-8 p.m. are not unusual. Hike early in the morning and late in the evening. Plan shorter trips when necessary to prevent heat exhaustion.**
- **In winter, expect cold nights - mid-30s or below. In winter and spring, many creeks may be impassable after heavy rain.**
- **There is no potable water at the Hunting Hollow trailhead.**



Pine Ridge Association

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Morgan Hill, CA 95037



Henry W. Coe State Park

Backpacking Trips - Hunting Hollow

Kelly Lake



Duration: 2 days

Difficulty: strenuous

Distance, elevation gain/loss:
one way, via Jackson Trail: 8.1 miles,
+2020/-1040 feet
return, via Willson Peak: 9.1 miles,
+1620/-2600 feet

Trailhead: Hunting Hollow on Gilroy Hot Springs Road. Parking at Coyote Creek Gate is not permitted.

Permits/fees: Backpacking permit and parking fees required; self-register for Kelly Lake

Key points - round trip

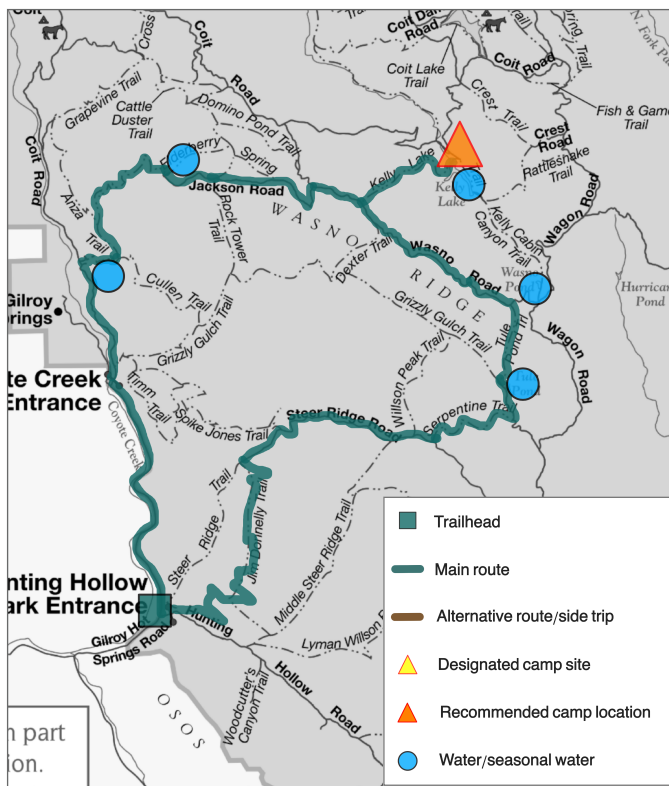
- 0.0 Follow paved Gilroy Hot Springs road to Coyote Creek Gate
- 2.0 Coyote Creek Gate, continue on Coit Road
- 3.0 W* Junction with Anza Trail (sign and information board), turn right. Woodchoppers spring nearby
- 3.6 Cullen Trail on your right, continue on Anza Trail
- 3.9 Jackson Trail, turn right
- 5.3 W* Jackson Road, continue straight. Elderberry Spring nearby
- 6.7 Wasno Road, turn right
- 7.1 Kelly Lake Trail, turn left
- 8.1 W Kelly Lake west shore **CAMP**
- 9.1 Wasno Road, turn left
- 10.6 Tule Pond Trail, turn right
- 11.2 W* Tule Pond, Grizzly Gulch Road, turn left
- 11.4 Serpentine Trail, turn right
- 12.3 Steer Ridge Road, turn right
- 13.8 Jim Donnelly Trail, turn left
- 16.9 Hunting Hollow trailhead

Distance and elevation approximate.

W/W* - water/seasonal water source. Check water source conditions with park staff or at coepark.net/water

Route

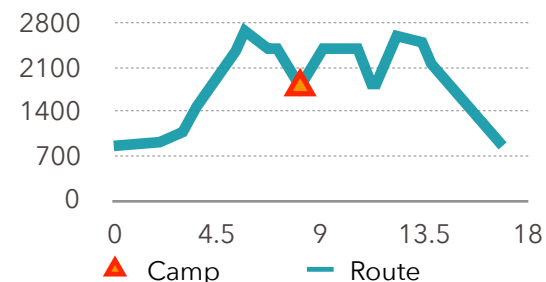
From Coyote Creek Gate, follow Coit Road



This map is for reference only.

Use the detailed Henry W. Coe State Park Trail and Camping Map for hiking. Check trail conditions at coepark.net/trails

Elevation - round trip



This fairly level stretch of the road, adorned in spring with orange poppies and blue lupins, is one of the highlights of the trip.

When at Wasno Road, turn right, and in 0.4 miles take Kelly Lake Trail on the north side of the road.

Kelly Lake trail descends steeply (could be slippery in dry season) to the west shore of Kelly Lake.

Return route

Return to Wasno Road and turn left (east).

Walk along the rolling ridge to Tule Pond Trail, turn right and descend to Grizzly Gulch.

Water is available from the Tule Pond and, early in the season, from the creek.

Take Serpentine Trail and ascend through meadows and open oak woodland.

The trail joins Steer Ridge Road near Willson Peak. On a clear winter day, the snow-capped Sierra Nevada mountains can be seen from this high point..

Take rolling Steer Ridge road and gradual Jim Donnelly Trail to return to the trailhead.

along the creek, to Anza Trail. Turn right. The information board tells about Anza expedition of 1775-1776. Follow Anza and Jackson trails, ascending at a moderate to steep grade through mixed bay and oak forest. Enjoy great variety of spring wildflowers in shady groves and sunny meadows.

The trail opens up as you reach the ridge crest at the junction with Elderberry Trail. Elderberry Spring, reliable at all but driest years, is on your left, couple hundred yards away.

Continue climbing on Jackson Road. In late spring, enjoy a showy patch of grand linanthus right on the trail.

Continue towards Wasno Road. Gorgeous panoramas open up, as Jackson Road sharply turns north.